Medical Insurance scheme for Tobacco producers

30. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Medical Insurance Scheme has been introduced for the tobacco producers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed to popularize the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Tobacco Board has assisted the registered flue cured Virginia tobacco growers in getting medi-claim cover from an insurance company during 31.03.2002 to 31.03.2003. The insurance policy covered the grower, spouse, two children and parents below the age of 60 years. The scheme could not be continued in 2003-04 on account of steep increase in insurance premium and non-availability of floater facility.

Slump in Industrial growth

31. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a slump in the percentage of the industrial growth in the current year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to accelerate the industrial growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) No, Sir. As per the latest data released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the industrial growth as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) registered a growth of 5% during April-May. 2003-04 compared with 4.1% in April-May 2002-03.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government has taken a number of measures to accelerate industrial growth. These, among others, include.